

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2003**

The City of Leesburg Commission held a special meeting Thursday, September 11, 2003, in the Commission Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Connelly called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Commissioner Bob Lovell
Commissioner Lewis Puckett
Mayor Pro-Tem David Knowles

Also present were City Manager (CM) Ron Stock, Finance Director (FD) Bill Pfeilsticker, Acting City Clerk (ACC) Betty Richardson, City Attorney (CA) Fred Morrison, the news media, and others.

Commissioner Lovell gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CM Stock reported, for the record, Mayor David Connelly and Commissioner Ben Perry had conflicts and were unable to attend the meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED MILLAGE AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2003-04**

**ANNOUNCED THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE PROPOSED MILLAGE
RATE OVER THE ROLLED BACK RATE**

Finance Director (FD) Bill Pfeilsticker announced the proposed millage rate of 4.50 mills represents an increase of .294 mills or 6.99% over the rolled-back rate of 4.206 mills.

DISCUSSED THE SPECIFIC REASONS FOR THE TAX INCREASE

FD Pfeilsticker announced there is no increase in the millage rate which remains at 4.50 mills for the fourteenth year. There is an increase in taxes attributable to the raise in tax capacity of \$240,469.

**REQUESTED COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE TENTATIVE
BUDGET**

Mayor Pro-Tem Knowles requested comments from the public giving a two-minute timeframe for each person.

Commissioner Lovell said it is almost unheard of for a governmental body not to raise taxes in fourteen years. Any increase in revenue is because of growth not an increase in the millage rate. He said he is very proud to say Leesburg is probably one of the finest run financial cities in the State if not in the entire country.

**ADOPTED RESOLUTION 6908 TENTATIVELY ADOPTING THE MILLAGE RATE
OF 4.500 MILLS PER \$1,000 TAXABLE VALUE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003-04**

Commissioner Lovell introduced the resolution to be read by title only. FD Pfeilsticker read the resolution, as follows:

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A resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida, tentatively adopting 4.500 mills as the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 millage rate for the City of Leesburg, Florida representing an increase of 0.294 mills or 6.99% over the rolled back rate of 4.206 mills.

Commissioner Puckett moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Lovell	Yea
Commissioner Puckett	Yea
Mayor Pro-Tem Knowles	Yea

Three yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 6909 TENTATIVELY ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2003-04 BUDGET

Commissioner Lovell introduced the resolution to be read by title only. FD Pfeilsticker read the resolution, as follows:

A resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida tentatively adopting the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 budget for the City of Leesburg, Florida

Commissioner Puckett moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Puckett	Yea
Commissioner Lovell	Yea
Mayor Pro-Tem Knowles	Yea

Three yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

INTRODUCED ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2003-04 BUDGET

Commissioner Lovell introduced the ordinance to be read by title only. FD Pfeilsticker read the ordinance, as follows:

An ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida adopting the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 budget for the City of Leesburg, Florida, and providing an effective date.

PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OF THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE OVER THE ROLLED BACK RATE

FD Pfeilsticker publicly announced the tentatively adopted millage rate of 4.500 mills represents an increase of 0.294 mills or 6.99% over the rolled back rate of 4.206 mills.

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ESTABLISHED AND PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING TO FINALLY ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATE AND THE FISCAL YEAR 2003-04 BUDGET

Mayor Pro-Tem Knowles announced the Commission will hold the final public hearing to adopt the millage rate and the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 budget Monday, September 22, 2003, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers at City Hall.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Puckett – In today's newspaper, there was a story about a community center and gymnasium in Carver Heights. The Commission has not approved this item. CM Stock advised in the ten-year Capital Plan, the gymnasium is listed as \$75,000 for engineering purposes. The Commission requested the title of that item be changed to a community center.

Commissioner Puckett said he thought the Commission was thinking in terms of building a new community center. He said he cannot see having several community centers around town. CM Stock said the Mayor has requested staff, as part of the overall analysis, look at the possibility of acquiring a church in the Carver Heights area. Deputy City Manager Johnson advised staff will be requesting an architect to perform a needs analysis for the City in terms a gymnasium and/or a community center, and which site is best, the church, Susan Street, Lee Adult School or other sites.

CM Stock advised he is looking into the possibility of relocating the Boys & Girls Club near Susan Street, which will alleviate transportation issues at the current location. If the Boys & Girls site were sold, the funds could be re-invested in a facility near Susan Street and the old location could be utilized by EMS as a training site.

Commissioner Lovell – None

Mayor Pro-Tem Knowles – said he is proud of the City of Leesburg for maintaining the same tax rate for the last fourteen years.

Commissioner Puckett moved to adjourn and Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m .

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Recorder

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